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Weather

8 A.M.: 60°
2 P.M.: 74°
5 P.M.: 70°
CHANCE OF RAIN: 20%

WEATHER REPORT, C8

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News Now

LOCAL & STATE

◆ **ONE MONTH** after a Lake Minneola High School student shot and killed himself on campus, another student enters the school and swallows pills in an apparent suicide attempt. **B1**

◆ **AN ORLANDO POLICE OFFICER** with a history of traffic citations is arrested on charges related to a fiery hit-and-run crash on State Road 408 in November. **B2**

NATION & WORLD

Rubio

◆ **SEN. MARCO RUBIO** becomes the latest holdout on the GOP tax plan, depriving leaders of his help as they struggle to build support for the bill before next week's expected vote. **A3**

BUSINESS

◆ **OIA OFFICIALS** expect 3 million passengers — up 7 percent from the same time last year — for the winter holiday travel season. Airport officials say Dec. 23 could see 155,000 passengers. **A10**

◆ **WALT DISNEY CO.** has reached a $52.4 billion deal to buy much of Rupert Murdoch's 20th Century Fox entertainment empire. Also, Disney announces that CEO Bob Iger will be with the company through 2021. **A10**

SPORTS

◆ **CENTER NIKOLA VUCEVIC** hopes the Force is with the Magic tonight against visiting Portland. Afterward, Vucevic, a fan of all things "Star Wars," is headed to a screening of "The Last Jedi." **C1**

◆ **TAILBACK ADRIAN KILLINS AND UCF** are focused on using speed to their advantage against Auburn in the Jan. 1 Peach Bowl. **C1**

◆ **PUTIN** blames U.S. for doping scandal. **C2**

TOP STORY

FCC dumps net neutrality rules

Deregulation decision increases anxiety about online control as states vow lawsuits

BY TALI ARBEL AND BARBARA ORTUTAY
Associated Press

The Federal Communications Commission repealed the Obama-era net neutrality rules Thursday, giving internet service providers such as Verizon, Comcast and AT&T a free hand to slow or block websites and apps as they see fit or charge more for faster speeds.

In a straight party-line vote of 3-2, the Republican-controlled FCC junked the longtime principle that said all web traffic must be treated equally.

The move represents a departure from more than a decade of federal oversight.

The big telecommunications companies had lobbied to overturn the rules, contending they discourage investment in broadband networks.

"What is the FCC doing today?" asked FCC chairman Ajit Pai, a Republican. "Quite simply, we are restoring the light-touch framework that has governed the internet for most of its existence."

The push to eliminate the

Please turn to ***NET, A3***

RUM BALLS SWEETEN PET PROJECT

PHOTOS BY JACOB LANGSTON/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Eric Boughman and wife Heather make rum balls at home each December. The gourmet sweets have raised more than $1 million to benefit Franklin's Friends pet charity. A box of 25, above, costs $50.

Couple's holiday tradition aids animal welfare

BY KATE SANTICH
Staff Writer

They are sinful little orbs of cocoa and sugar and rum, splayed across a kitchen tabletop in Longwood.

"Go ahead," says Heather Boughman. "Try one."

It is production night in the Boughman household, as it is many nights between Thanksgiving and Christmas, when Heather and husband Eric will tuck the children into bed, ask Alexa to play holiday tunes and break out their secret recipe and a large bottle of Appleton Estate Signature Blend Rum.

But theirs is not an endeavor of indulgence. It is one of charity.

Prepared, packaged and shipped by the Boughmans for six years and counting, the gourmet rum balls have raised $15,000 so far for Franklin's Friends, a Central Florida nonprofit that helps cover shelter pets' veterinary bills and support spay-neuter programs.

The Boughmans donate all their time, despite seeming to have none to spare. Eric, 46, is

Please turn to ***SWEETS, A8***

Court: Scott must appoint judges before lawsuit filing

BY GRAY ROHRER
Staff Writer

TALLAHASSEE — The Florida Supreme Court ruled Thursday it is too soon to determine whether Gov. Rick Scott will be able to reshape the state's highest court on his last day in office.

The decision means there could be a constitutional crisis if Scott and his successor both try to appoint replacements for three retiring justices.

By a 6-1 vote, the court said a case brought by the League of Women Voters wasn't eligible for review because Scott had not acted yet.

"Until some action is taken by the Governor, the matter the League seeks to have resolved is not ripe, and this Court lacks jurisdiction," the ruling states.

The League asked the Supreme Court to decide the

Please turn to ***COURT, A7***

Sex harassment accusation roils Orlando clinic

BY PAUL BRINKMANN
Staff Writer

A psychologist and leader in Orlando's gay community will be reinstated as president of Two Spirit mental-health clinic after an investigation by the board of directors into a claim that he sexually harassed an employee there, according to a spokeswoman for the clinic.

The psychologist, David Baker-Hargrove, 53, acknowledged "inappropriate communication" with the employee, Bobby Hermida, 23, in a statement he provided to the Sentinel.

The doctor and the clinic have been at the forefront of the gay community's response to the Pulse nightclub shooting, in which 49 people were killed. Two Spirit has been receiving federal grants, up to $800,000, from the Department of Justice

Please turn to ***CLINIC, A7***

Eustis woman marks 94th birthday after release from jail — she had resisted eviction

BY BIANCA PADRÓ OCASIO
Staff Writer

Juanita Fitzgerald was spared having to spend her 94th birthday in the Lake County jail when she was released Thursday after having been locked up for two days in the medical ward.

The trouble started when Fitzgerald was evicted Tuesday from the senior housing community at the National Church Residences' Franklin House in Eustis. Police said she was given notice of her eviction the day before, but she refused to leave the lobby.

Fitzgerald

"Unless you carry me out of here, I'm not going anywhere," she told police before being arrested Tuesday morning, the report shows.

Lake County sheriff's spokesman Fred Jones said a deputy on the scene tried to connect Fitzgerald with family members and other housing resources, but she refused. He added that she also rejected an offer of a place to stay from a nurse who was there.

Eustis police showed up shortly after the eviction notice was served. Spokesman Jim

Please turn to ***EVICTION, A11***

Voices & Opinion

◆ **FRONT BURNER:** Debate examines energy-policy paths. **A12**
◆ **STATE VIEWPOINT:** Body cameras protect public, officers. **A13**
◆ **LETTERS:** Nixon, Trump, Lewinsky, water conservation. **A13**
◆ **ASK AMY:** Soon-to-be bride worried about in-law issues. **B5**
◆ **NBA INSIDER:** How "reunion games" became NBA staple. **C2**

What To Do Today

GET OUTTA TOWN

Calendar has a food tour of some of the best restaurants nearby Lakeland has to offer. Meanwhile, experimental performance troupe Phantasmagoria transports audiences to Victorian England with their interpretation of Dickens' "A Christmas Carol." Plus, reviews for "Ferdinand" and "Wonder Wheel," movie listings and more. **INSIDE**

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